

It's a Secret

A cornerstone was laid the other day outside Washington for the new Central Intelligence Agency building. C.I.A. is the cloak-and-dagger agency whose annual spending is as secret as its adventures are. The argument goes that it wouldn't do to have the Russians—or maybe even the British and the French—find out exactly how much we spend on intelligence and counter-intelligence activities. So, of course, the American people are told it's none of their business, either.

Consequently, C.I.A.'s performance record is pretty hard to pin down. Not many know whether C.I.A. gets its

money's worth out of its agents or whether the American taxpayer gets his money's worth out of C.I.A.

But there's no question about one fact: C.I.A. operates in a very, very big way. The building that started the other day is supposed to cost in the neighborhood of \$49 million. And the road they had to build to the building cost \$9.4 million. It strikes us that with that kind of an investment in plant and access, Congress ought to exercise its right to know a little more about what will go on in a building whose occupants need a fast new road to Washington.

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